

### III. REMARKS

The claims have been amended to delete reference numbers and better conform to US practice.

The idea in the present invention is to provide an opportunity to identify and call functions or subroutines in software modules, not just based on subroutine name and parameter information, but also with an auxiliary tag. The method according to the invention makes it possible to simultaneously use two or more program modules, wherein the subroutines in the modules are with the same name and parameter information. This is not possible in prior art like C++ overloading. In addition, if the auxiliary tag is an encrypted digital signature, it can be used as an authentication that the program module is trusted. In this way, the main program can choose within all the possible program modules the one that it trusts. This is important especially when the modules are located in a network.

McManis discloses a method for verifying the authenticity of program modules before dynamically linking them to a calling program module. The first program module comprises procedure calls to both the verifier and a second program module which is to be authenticated. The second program module to be authenticated comprises a digital signature, which is verified by the verifier upon executing said procedure call. The verification is performed at execution of the calling program, before any instructions of the called program are performed. To perform the verification the first (calling) program module makes a procedure call to the verifier, which then verifies the digital signature of the second (called) program module by using the public key

provided by the first program module. The verifier returns the result of the verification. If the digital signature is correct, the first program module makes a procedure call to the second program module. The purpose of the verification is to prevent the loading of a modified program module. The verification is not performed before the program module is loaded into the device. The method needs a separate verifier to be implemented in the calling program. The verification is valid for the calling program module only.

McManis only deals with a situation in which one program module is to be loaded and verified. It does not mention anything about multiple program modules having the same name and the same parameters as recited in claims 1 and 7. In fact, McManis does not permit simultaneously using two or more program modules with the same name and the same parameters. This is evident from the description and Figs. 3A and 3B.

Thus the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-9 under 35 USC 102 on McManis, should be withdrawn.

Further, since there is no suggestion in McManis of these features, these claims are unobvious over it.


Puhl discloses a wireless electronic commerce system coupled with wireless gateway delivering software and digital certificates to the wireless devices. There is no disclosure of the above discussed features. Thus combining Puhl with McManis does not result in the present invention.

Hence the rejection of claims 6 and 10 under 35 USC 103 on this reference combination should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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